UNCLAS AMMAN 002429

SIPDIS

E.O. 1258: N/A
TAGS: ECPS ECON ETRD JO
SUBJECT: Survey of Jordan's Wireless Internet

REF: SECSTATE 85946

SUMMARY

¶1. As per instructions REFTEL, we consulted with Jordanian telecom regulatory officials to respond to survey questions regarding Wi-Fi regulations in Jordan. Follow-up questions can be directed to Greg Garramone, Econ Section (GarramoneGG@state.gov). The responses begin para. 2.

¶2. Jordan has allocated unlicensed radio-frequency spectrum for use by Wi-Fi and similar wireless technologies, specifically Spread Spectrum in frequency bands (2400 - 2483.5 MHz), (5150-5250 MHz) and (5725-5850 MHz. Currently, Jordan allows only indoor use of Wi-Fi or similar wireless technologies with maximum Effective Isotropic Radiated Power (EIRP) of 100mw. According to Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) regulations, devices producing EIRP under 10mw need only type approval, usually obtained by the vendor. Sites installing devices producing EIRP in excess of 10mw, but less than 100mw, need to obtain a usage license in addition to the type approval.

¶3. Wi-Fi systems can not be used without a license in Jordan. A type license is required for devices producing EIRP under 10mw; additionally, a usage license is required for devices producing EIRP over 10mw but under 100mw.

The following requirements must be submitted with the application for a usage license:

¶A. A certificate confirming that the system conforms to European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) standards EN 300 328, EN 300 440, or EN 300 836, or in accordance with Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Rules Part 15.247 or 15.247(g) or 15.407.
¶B. Submit a test report that complies with all TRC accredited standards.
¶C. Colored pictures for the equipment from all sides, showing the brand, model and type.
¶D. A complete test report describing the equipment used to conduct the test.
¶E. Written confirmation by the testing laboratory, confirming that the equipment is in accordance with European safety requirements regarding the emission of radial power.

¶3. Wi-Fi can be used in licensed commercial outlets, such as Internet cafes, as long as the location abides by the regulations governing the use of Wi-Fi.

¶4. There are currently no known commercial Wi-Fi networks that provide service to the public currently operating in Jordan.

¶5. According to our sources at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Wi-Fi is currently in use at few five star hotels for guest and staff use. Global One, a subsidiary of Jordan Telecom, told us that their offices utilize Wi-Fi, and that there are plans to outfit the Queen Alia International Airport passenger halls with Wi-Fi for use by travelers.

¶6. Wi-Fi is currently not in use in rural areas in Jordan. MoICT sources told us that plans to connect all schools and universities throughout Jordan to the Internet are based on fiber optics and wired LAN's and WAN's.

¶7. There are currently no longer distance (beyond 100 meters outdoors) Wi-Fi networks in use in-country as Wi-Fi usage is limited to indoor facilities for the time being.

¶8. The number of Wi-Fi units sold in Jordan is currently not available, but indications are that it is low compared to wired network devices.

¶9. Further information regarding Wi-Fi use and licensing is available at the TRC website www.trc.gov.jo.

GNEHM